

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to reduce the number of claims to reduce the filing fee. These amendments were not made for any reasons of patentability but are merely formal matters and to avoid the charges for extra claims.

It is respectfully submitted that this Preliminary Amendment places the application in better form for examination and that the claims in their present form are patentable and allowable and an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Christine M. Rebman
Reg. No. 50,546
Attorney for Applicant

Mallinckrodt, Inc.
Patent Department
675 McDonnell Blvd.
P.O. Box 5840
St. Louis, MO 63134

Tel: (314) 654-3939
Fax: (314) 654-3156

Date: March 22, 2006